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A.—(a) Government received a petition early in March last from certain councillors and other citizens of the municipality alleging certain irregularities in the municipal administration.

(b) & (c) The Collector was asked to make a detailed enquiry, only if, after obtaining the Chairman's remarks on the allegations, the Collector was convinced of the truth of at least some of the allegations. Government were satisfied on the report of the Collector, after a preliminary enquiry, that sufficient grounds did not exist for a detailed investigation. They see no need to place this report of the Collector on the table of the house.

B. Pocker Sahib Bahadur:—"May I know, Sir, whether we are to take it that the word of the Chairman is to be the last word on the subject. I am asking with reference to clauses (b) and (c)?"

The hon. the Raja of Bobbili:—"The Collector on his own enquiries satisfied himself that the allegations are not well founded and Government considered that sufficient grounds did not exist for a detailed investigation."

B. Pocker Sahib Bahadur:—"Is it not clear from the answer that the Collector has not made any enquiry except to ask for some opinion from the Chairman and that he is precluded by the order of the Government from making any investigation?"

The hon. the Raja of Bobbili:—"He had been asked to make an enquiry if he was satisfied that there was a case for such an enquiry. He has reported to the Government that in his opinion there is no necessity for an enquiry, and the enquiry has been dropped."

B. Pocker Sahib Bahadur:—"Is it not clear from the answer that the Collector is asked not to make any enquiry unless he is satisfied from the Chairman's remarks alone that there is ground for investigation, that he called for the remarks of the Chairman alone and that there has been no investigation at all?"

The hon. the Raja of Bobbili:—"It is for him to decide whether investigation is necessary. The Collector will be in possession of the facts of the case in order to satisfy himself as to whether there should be an enquiry."

Mr. Basheer Ahmed Sayeed:—"May I know, Sir, what the nature is of the grave irregularities complained of?"

The hon. the Raja of Bobbili:—"I am afraid I must ask for notice if I am to give a list of all the allegations."

B. Pocker Sahib Bahadur:—"The opinion of the Chairman and that of the Collector thereon conclude the matter, I take it. Is it so?"

The hon. the Raja of Bobbili:—"The Collector reported to the Government that there is no case for an enquiry."

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Resolutions of certain Municipal Councils restricting the issue of licences only to coffee hotels accessible to all castes.

* 64 *Q.*—Swami A. S. SAHAJANANDAM: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the Salem, Virudunagar, Pollachi and Coimbatore Municipal Councils have passed resolutions that licences would be issued only to those coffee hotels where everybody may go freely without caste distinction; and

(*b*) if so, what action was taken by the Government on this matter?

A.—(*a*) Yes, in the case of the Salem Municipal Council. In the other cases the Government have no information.

(*b*) The hon. Member is referred to the answer given to clause (*c*) of Question No. 12.

Rao Sahib V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—"In the answer to clause (*a*) it is stated that in the other cases the Government have no information. Will the Government be pleased to call for the information and let us know whether there has been any breach of the peace as a result of allowing members of the depressed classes into the coffee hotels?"

The hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI:—"I shall call for the information if the hon. Member wants it."

Mr. V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—"May I know whether the hon. Minister, since sending the answer to this question, referred the matter to the Advocate-General as to whether the Councils are competent to pass such resolutions?"

The hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI:—"It has not been possible to do so as the Advocate-General has been absent from Madras."

Mr. V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—"May I ask whether that matter may be put before him when he returns to Madras?"

The hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI:—"I shall certainly do so."

Education

Reduction in the number of representatives of the Salem Municipal Council on the District Educational Council.

* 65 *Q.*—Mr. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER: Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Excise be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the number of members allowed to represent the Salem Municipal Council on the District Educational Council, Salem, was reduced from two to one;

(*b*) if so, why and on what considerations;

(*c*) whether it is a fact that the Municipal Council of Salem has elected a second member for the District Educational Council recently;

(*d*) when that election was made, what orders the Government have passed in the matter and the date of such orders;